

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4689

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1260

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 044489

1. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI ASKED TO SEE ME
YESTERDAY MORNING, HE CANCELLED APPOINTMENT AT LAST
MINUTE OWING TO OTHER OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING RECEIVING
NUMBER OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS IN ATTENDANCE AT 40TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. I HAD INTENDED AT THAT TIME
TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WANTED TO TALK TO SECRETARY ABOUT.
CHATTI LEFT THIS MORNING FOR CAIRO FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT.

2. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL I SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH
SECSTATE MANZAOU, WHO RECEIVED ME THIS AFTERNOON. I
TOLD HIM SECRETARY COULD MEET WITH CHATTI ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 12 AT 5 PM. HAMZAOU SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN
TOUCH WITH CHATTI BY TELEPHONE TONIGHT AND WOULD CONFIRM
TO ME TOMORROW MORNING. HE THOUGHT CHATTI WOULD PLAN
TO RETURN TO TUNIS SUNDAY, MARCH 10, AND LEAVE FOR AND
ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 11.; HE SAID HE
WOULD ASCERTAIN CHATTI'S PLANNED LENGTH OF STAY.

3. HAMZAOU SAID THAT CHATTI SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH,
HAVING SERVED AS TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO LONDON FOR
3 YEARS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES CHATTI UNDERSTANDS
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ENGLISH BETTER THAN HE SPEAKS IT. HE AGREED WITH

SUGGESTION THAT CHATTI MIGHT CONVERSE WITH SECRETARY
IN FRENCH, WITH SECRETARY SPEAKING TO CHATTI IN ENGLISH.

4. HAMZAOUI INDICATED THAT CHATTI WANTED TO SEE SECRETARY
IN CONNECTION WITH HIS PLAN, FOLLOWING TAKING OVER FOREIGN
MINISTER POSITION, TO TOUCH BASE AT MOST IMPORTANT
CAPITALS OF PARIS, WASHINGTON, NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND
CAIRO. HE SAID CHATTI HAS ALREADY VISITED PARIS, NORTH
AFRICAN CAPITALS AND, OF COURSE, IS NOW IN CAIRO. HE
THOUGHT THAT CHATTI WOULD WISH BRING SECRETARY UP-TO-DATE
ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING TUNISIA, AND
DISCUSS PROPOSED VISIT BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO
U.S.
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